

Message Text

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10

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 OMB-01 EUR-12 /067 W

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O 110700Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3465

INFO COMUSSAG NKP THAILAND IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE

COMIPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 2654

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON MILITARY ACTION IN MR2

FOLLOWING NHA TRANG TEL SENT ACTION AMEMBASSY SAIGON INFO USDAO SAIGO

N

11 MARCH BEING REPEATED TO YOU:

QUOTE NHA TRANG 146

REF: NHA TRANG 0145

1. THE UPSURGE OF COMMUNIST ATTACKS IN BINH DINH, PLEIKU, KHANH HOA, AND , MOST RECENTLY, PHU BON, DARLAC AND QUANG DUC, CONTINUES. LATE DETAILS FOLLOW: A WEEKLY REPORT WILL BE SENT SEPARATELY LATER TODAY (MAR 11).

2. ON MAR 10 THE BULK OF THE FIGHTING IN BINH DINH WAS STILL IN THE VICINITY OF AN KHE PASS. IN 2 MAJOR CONTACTS THERE, THE GVN CLAIMED TO HAVE KILLED 98 COMMUNIST TROOPS (GVN CASUALTIES WERE NOT REPORTED). SCATTERED FIGHTING PERSISTED IN TAM QUAN, PHU MY, AND PHU CAT DISTRICTS.

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3. ON MARCH 10 IN PLEIKU, COMMUNISTS ABFS AGAINST FSB 94

(BR 135539, MANNED BY THE HQS OF THE 4TH RANGER GROUP, KILLED 1 RANGER, WOUNDED 6 OTHERS, AND DESTROYED 3 TANKS. BETWEEN 1440 AND 1900 HRS, COMMUNIST GUNNERS FROM THE NORTHEAST AND SOUTHEAST LAUNCHED 53 122MM ROCKETS AT CU HANH (PLEIKU) AIRFIELD AND AGAINST II CORPS HQS WOUNDING 5 SERVICEMEN, SLIGHTLY DAMAGING 4 AIRPLANES (TWO A-1 SKYRAIDERS, 2 HELICOPTERS) AND 1 APC), AND DESTROYING 3 HOUSES.

4. IN BAN ME THUOT, AS OF THE EARLY MORNING OF MARCH 11, THE COMMUNIST AND GVN FORCES IN THE CITY WERE ENGAGED IN AN ARTILLERY DUEL ON THE PERIPHERIES OF THE CITY. (PROV REP DARLAC, WHO REMAINS SAFE IN THE CENTER OF BMT, REPORTS THAT THE CENTER OF THE CITY IS QUIET; REPORTEDLY, ALL THE AMERICANS ONE AUSTRALIAN AND ONE FILIPINO AND FAMILY WHO WERE IN THE CITY AT THE TIME OF THE ATTACK ARE PRESENTLY WITH THE PROV REP.) GVN FORCES, WHICH HAVE NOW BEEN REINFORCED BY THE 21ST RANGER GROUP, ARE PREPARING TO COUNTERATTACK LATER IN THE DAY. IT HAS BEEN LEARNED THAT ON MAR 10 THE AMMO DUMP WAS OVERRUN AND 10,000 ROUNDS OF 105 MM AMMO AND TWO 105 MM HOWITZERS WERE REPORTEDLY LOST; THE SECTOR TOC COLLAPSED AND ITS STAFF WAS EVACUATED WITH THE 96TH RANGER BN; PHUNG DUC AIRFIELD WAS ONLY PARTLY OVERRUN AND IS PRESENTLY THE SCENE OF FIGHTING. ALSO, VISUAL RECON HAS CONFIRMED THAT 13 NVA TANKS WERE KNOCKED OUT ON MAR 10 -- POSSIBLY AS A RESULT OF THE 96 AIR SORTIES FLOWN BY THE GVN AGAINST COMMUNIST POSITIONS IN DARLAC. FINALLY, BUON HO SUBSECTOR HQS TOOK ORDNANCE ON MAR 10 (NO RESULTS REPORTED).

5. ON MAR 10 BOTH DUC LAP SUBSECTOR HQS AND FSD DAK SONG FELL TO THE COMMUNISTS, BUT IN BOTH AREAS THE GVN FORCES WERE ABLE TO RETREAT IN APPARENTLY ORDERLY FASHION. KIEN DUC DISTRICT IS ALSO THE SCENE OF FIGHTING PRESENTLY. SPEAR
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SAIGON02654
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750084-0734
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750362/aaaacds.v.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 NHA TRANG 0145
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <20 NOV 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UPDATE ON MILITARY ACTION IN MR2 FOLLOWING NHA TRANG TEL SENT ACTION AMEMBASSY SAIGON INFO USDAO SAIGO
TAGS: MOPS, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006